



VOL. 3

CALGARY, JAN. 30, 1919

One Dollar per year

No. 3

### DO IT NOW

If you have a dear old mother  
In the old home far away,  
Sit down and write that letter  
You put off from day to day  
Don't wait until her tired steps  
Reach Heaven's pearly gate,  
But tell her that you love her now,  
Before it is too late.

If dear old dad is waiting there,  
He often thinks of you,  
To show him that you think of him  
Write him a letter, too  
'Twill cheer him up to hear from you,  
Smooth wrinkles from his brow,  
You know you often mean to write,  
So why not do it now?

If you have a tender message  
For a loved one or a friend,  
Don't wait till you forget it,  
When it's too late to mend!  
For tender words unspoken  
Or a letter never sent,  
For which some hearts are breaking  
Is a wealth of love unspent.

We live but in the present  
The future is unknown,  
So grasp the chance that's offered  
And claim it for your own  
Write to dear old mother,  
Write to dear old dad,  
Don't wait till bitter memories  
Make you wish you had.

Well, are you quite sure now you  
are NOT an Independent?

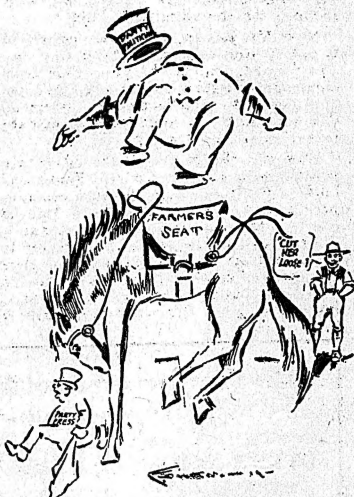
"The Day of Opportunity" is here  
for the Farmer. What are you going  
to do with it? Read what Mrs. McKinney  
says, on Pages 17-11-17.

Our Third Annual Convention will  
be held in the Paget Hall, Calgary, on  
Wednesday, February 19th. Every  
member is urged to attend and we  
hope each locality will be represented.  
Get together and send a delegate if  
you cannot come yourself. Important  
recommendations as to the future  
policy of the movement will be de-  
cided upon.

### WELL! WELL!!

The millers have done well;  
The shippers have done well;  
The bankers have done well;  
The packers have done well;  
The manufacturers have done well;  
The workers and soldiers have been done  
well.  
And the voters at the next opportunity will  
do—well! well!!

In response to many requests we are  
printing an almost verbatim report of  
Mrs. McKinney's great speech at the  
U.F.A. Convention, and hope later to  
have it in pamphlet form. We wish  
space was available to give alongside  
a couple of the garbled reports that appeared  
in the daily press. It would be a good  
object lesson to farmers as the value of a  
press of their own. One report never  
mentioned the Non-Partisan League!



"The Bandage is Off His Eyes"

### MAKE IT A BIG THING

At the Convention we were delighted  
with the appreciation of THE ALBERTA  
NON-PARTISAN and the warm approval  
expressed by both men and women on the  
articles appearing in it. We are glad it  
is read with so much interest and believe  
in all sincerity its publication will yet  
mean the greatest thing that has happened  
not in Alberta only, but in all Canada.  
Will you help us make it so?

### THE STING OF IT

(Bee-keeping has been suggested for the  
repatriated soldier in Britain.)

Oh, here's a sweet reward—

A splendid gift of honey  
(At least of bees)

Our taste to please,  
And better far than money.

How nobly generous

To make this great suggestion,

For one should strive

To own a hive

There isn't the least question

For years we've borne hard blows

From that fierce fellow Jerry,

And nasty thwacks

Upon our backs,

But now—let us be merry,

Yea, let us all rejoice,

This nation's just the ticket—

A perfect treat,

Sweets to the sweet,

And wax for them that stick it.

But there is just one sting

Which makes a Tommy smart, sir;

I was A1

When the war began.

But now—it breaks my heart, sir,

To think I've shed my blood

To keep old England free, sir,

And I'm crushed,

They've gone and pushed

Me into this Class Bee, sir.

Mrs. McKinney's great speech at  
the Convention is printed on Pages  
19-11-17, expressly for your benefit.  
Read it and get a correct impression  
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## CONVENTION SPASMS!

Sure, it was a great Convention. We enjoyed every minute of it.

Did you smile during the speech of welcome from Edmonton's democratic Mayor?

One farmer thought it was just as good as that of the Lieut.-Governor and Premier. We thought it was much better.

And who said there was no fun in "Dad" Leedy? Wasn't it a great speech he gave?

Would that all the bank "owners" (not managers) in Canada had been there to hear him.

From now on the old man will always have a warm spot in the hearts of Alberta farmers.

It means sacrifice for farmers to attend convention for a week in these hard times.

But one farmer said Mrs. McKinney's speech was such a treat it was worth all his expense.

This is "The Day" of Opportunity for the Farmer.

Who said a month ago the Farmers would not go into Politics?

And who says now they "Won't Stick?" Just wait and see!

And who was the "guy" that said Glambeck voted against it?

Is the U.F.A. likely to remain democratic?

And is Proportional Representation too slow a method in electing officers?

Never depart from principles—they live longer than men.

How would it be to elect officers on the last day and take the resolutions first?

The only chance a new delegate gets to estimate the ability of a candidate is by his showing on the floor.

What is the primary purpose of a convention discussion of resolutions or election of officers?

Think it over, men!

Can you imagine a U.F.A. Convention without Jim Weir in it?

Some dull kind of a place, eh? Even the president admitted "Mr." Weir was humorous. Wot!

But after all "Jim" gave the Convention many a grain of sound common sense.

Did you see Glambeck's "double!"

John is a doughty old fighter and for many years he has done lots to keep the light of U.F.A.-ism burning.

Hands up who doesn't know who the "one and only" Vice-President will be.

Are you all agreed? The motion is—Tabled.

## THE BANKING QUESTION

By George Bevington of Winterburn, Alta.

Having listened to the discussion on the Resolution dealing with the banking question, at the U.F.A. Convention, and noting with what tact Mr. Brown evaded the real issues, I would like to present to your readers a few facts in connection with this matter as they present themselves to me.

In order to understand this subject it is first necessary to know how banks are organized, what privileges they enjoy, and what obligations are imposed upon them. Briefly stated, banks are organized by not less than five men making applications for a charter to the Federal Treasury Board. If the charter is granted, it is necessary for the provisional Board of Directors to sell at least \$500,000 worth of shares, \$250,000 of which must be paid in cash and deposited with the Treasury Board, together with the required evidence that the organization work has been carried on in accordance with the law, when a certificate permitting the new banking concern to do business will be issued.

The \$250,000 deposited with the Treasury Board will be handed back to the new bank, with the exception of \$5,000, which is held for the benefit of the circulation fund. Space will not permit me to deal with the circulation fund here. This new concern now finds itself in possession of a very valuable document called a charter, which permits them to issue money or new bank notes bearing the name of their bank. This means that they have the legal right to turn papers into money. The amount they are permitted to so issue is equal to their paid-up capital, so that if they had sold and got paid for \$1,000,000 worth of stock, they would be permitted to issue \$1,000,000 of new money, making their total amount of money to do business with \$2,000,000, less \$5,000, which is retained for the circulation fund.

Now, Mr. Reader, if you were permitted to use all your original capital in any way you pleased, and at the same time issue an amount of legal money equal to the same and loan it to your fellows at interest do you not think you could probably manage to get along fairly well?

However, this is not all the advantage granted with a bank charter. Banks and kindred institutions are the only concerns permitted to receive deposits. This of course is the real plum to the Bank and is the real evil in the system as it places in the hands of Banks a real and complete monopoly of credit. There was in Canada at the beginning of the war about \$50,000,000 in gold. This has been entirely

out of circulation since hostilities began and never was but little used as a medium of exchange in this country. Paper money is credit certificates. Bank deposits is credit payable by the banks in credit certificates of bank notes, which is the same thing.

Now, the bank note being the private property of the bank, and the bank being in possession of all the people's deposits and having the right to call the deposits to the head office at any time, and to loan it outside of Canada on call loan or otherwise, as they see fit, virtually places them in the position to either advance or retard progress in any part of Canada at will, by loaning indiscriminately, as happened here in the real estate boom days. Everybody went wild with speculation and as long as loans could be secured the boom lasted; when loans could not be secured any longer, the boom ceased and times became very hard for all those who borrowed money to invest in anything that was not a producing proposition.

Put it this way:—The banks own all the paper or credit money; if then they refused to let their notes go out of the bank in exchange for your note there could be no money in circulation. If they demanded that all the personal notes held by them be paid at maturity and refused to make any new loans, when payment was made all the money would be in the banks, and not a dollar in circulation, for the amount going in, in personal notes, is exactly equal to the amount the bank lets out of bank notes. The interest due the bank on personal notes would have to be secured by selling goods to foreign countries, unless the bank saw fit to take it in produce.

As time is limited I hope to write more on this question in your next issue.

—GEO. BEVINGTON.

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# THE LIBERAL CONVENTION IN CALGARY

By the Watchdog

If the war put an end to party politics and patronage in Canada it nevertheless left a great many politicians running loose about the country. On January 16th and 17th the Liberals of the Province concerned with Federal matters held one grand round-up. The foreman pitched his camp at the confluence of the Bow and Elbow Rivers at a spot where lone liberals do not consider themselves safe. It is within gun-shot of the Hudson's Bay fort on the west and the C.P.R. citadel on the south. On the east stretch the trenches of the laborites and the ground is so pitted with Non-Partisan dug-outs that no liberal horse gets more than a good start than he steps in one of these political badger holes. Across the whole rally stretches the great Bank Credit and Trust Company gravelbars. The woods along the hillsides are inhabited by Tory wolves and the hilltops dominated by returned vets still dominated by the Unionist propagandists on whom they were forced to subsist during the past eighteen months. The only clover pastures are occupied by infuriated farmers who likewise have a corner on the future political grain crop of the West. The sky is blackened by Imperial air crafties.

There is no truth in the saying that environment makes the man. Of all men it makes most shapely the politician. Meeting eight hundred strong from all the ridings in the Province under these auspices there was unanimous approval of the suggestion of the doctor of health that the great function of the liberal party is to grow strong and wax fat, and that the most natural way to do this is to politically adapt the party to the voting environment by avoiding all conflicts and making peace with all factions and forces, good, bad and Unionist, whether within or without the party; in other words to create harmony. For this supreme purpose the resolutions horse wranglers were selected with skill and their normal strength increased twenty-fold. The wranglers worked day and night. Thanks to their indefatigable efforts not one headstrong or homesick resolutions horse, not one who loved his country more than his party was allowed to break away into public view. A horse was carefully selected, branded, bridled, saddled and broken for every voter's wish and then pushed through the committee squeezer into the great round corral where

each and every one in turn was equally and unanimously proclaimed the most important and finest mount in the political field of the day and a sure winner in the next election.

Now, a free trade and reciprocity charger if left to his own sweet will would lead the party far from its historic haunts and must surely occasion a bitter war between Fabricator and Agricola within the party itself. Such was the esprit de corps of the round-up that it was tacitly agreed that the political race course should always be round and single tracked so that at the end of any political day every horse would be just at the same place and in the same relative position as when he started. As a fitting pledge of fidelity all declared fealty to Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

It should be mentioned that the harmony was never so mellow and sad as when some old racer awoke memories of the glorious epoch of the eighteen peaceful years of liberal power and conversely that the chorus was never so loud and warlike as when the unholy name of some conservative or unionist domino was inadvertently mentioned.

But there is no lute without a rift. A miner from Drumheller tunnelled his way beneath the beat of the wranglers and laid and detonated a terrific blast under the foundation of the Bank merger of Canada. The blast called for a national system of local banks with local directorates. It was the only resolution calculated to draw fight from any quarter and perchance will be the only one to draw applause from the great mass of Canadian people longing for the right and who long to see the dawn of good government.

—THE WATCHDOG.

\* \* \*

We have several thousand extra copies of this issue in anticipation of demands from U.F.A. Locals. We will be glad to send you. Many hundreds of extra copies of every issue is sent out for propaganda purposes. The farmers are drinking it in like new milk and from all quarters reports come it is doing good work. We promise to redouble our efforts this year and ask you to do likewise. Let everyone be a missionary. We have abundant faith in our cause and our supporters are imbued with the right spirit.

\* \* \*

Read Glanbeck's report of the U.F.A. Convention, on Pages 8 and 9.

\* \* \*

Read "How the Farmers See It," by Donald Cameron, on Page 7.

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## The Alberta Labor Convention

By Alex. Ross, M.L.A.



The Alberta Federation of Labor Convention held in Medicine Hat was the most successful conference of Labor ever held in the Province of Alberta. To the student who has a desire to understand the somewhat complex problem of economics or the

development of a nation by the blending of nationalities the week at the Convention was invaluable. I cannot imagine a more cosmopolitan gathering endeavouring to give expression to National ideals—ideals which were imported from all parts of the world; brought here by men who were invited to come to this country by capital in order that cheap labor would be available for the development of the natural resources, or in many cases forced to leave their native soil in search of employment.

Since these men left sunny Italy, Servia, Austria, or the colder regions of Russia, Scandinavia, war has devastated Europe. Empires have crumbled, and in all probability when the Peace Conference determines the territorial boundary lines some of them will find the land of their nativity under new alignment. None of them seem to worry; one nation is as good as another. The struggle for life has been as bitter in Canada as in Europe; they were welcomed here and then sent to the mining and lumber camps to be bullied by their English speaking friends, and to live in camp bunkhouses in many cases unfit for human beings to live in. The handicap of being unable to speak the English language, the sordid surroundings, the uncertainty of employment, their early training and environment have developed a type of men who are ready to rebel at any moment against a state of society that tolerates these conditions. I wondered quite often when listening to the passionate denouncement of things as they are what would have been the fate of the Anglo-Saxon if he had been planted in the eastern states of Europe under similar conditions.

Since the outbreak of the war, the non-English speaking immigrant in the camps, after the ordeal of learning our language, understanding our customs and something about our national life, made possible only by the trades unions, are confronted now with a condition that did not exist on their arrival in Canada. The war has developed racial hatred; in Canada those who cannot speak English or speak it with a foreign accent are Germans or despised foreigner no longer welcome—unwelcome chiefly because they insist on being on the same level as the English speaking wage earner. Stories have been written and widely circulated about the enormous wages these men have made since the war began. The operators see to it that these stories get the proper setting; politicians, bubbling over with patriotism who have done little but talk for the last four years compared with the hazards these men have assumed in order to keep the wheels of industry going, threaten to have them deported. Racial hatred is being engendered for political reasons. Fortunately, with the exception of a few returned soldiers and those who would profit by enslaving these men still further, the public do not take the press agents seriously.

The foreigner was not the only militant delegate, the English speaking delegates were also rebels. The effects of the isolation and environment of camp life could be seen everywhere, expressed a great deal differently however by various nationalities. The temperamental Englishman with his passion for reform; the Irishman with his wit and satire; the phlegmatic Canadian, Scot and Swede; the romantic Slav, each made his contribution to the cosmopolitan group.

The visitor after analyzing, ticketing, and labelling the group would first of all be impressed by the breadth of vision, the wide knowledge of international affairs, possessed by the delegates. Such a knowledge of the world by men equipped with but meagre education was striking, but why should it be? These men knew the history and development of the old world and are deeply interested in the new. When the war came the map of Europe was visualised in our daily press. The English speaking population began to learn something about other nations and lacking the historical background necessary to understand the drama of war, our foreign citizens supplied it.

Then another reason, we have been preaching internationalism for years—a strange crude internationalism not too well defined, and which was rudely upset by the war, as against the Imperialism of the fallen and tottering Empires. I could almost imagine that Siberia was a neighboring State, and that France and Italy were much nearer than New Brunswick. The essence of internationalism is that the working class the world over have something in common, and that wars would be impossible were we to understand one another better. Racial hatred exists in Canada but it was not in evidence at Medicine Hat. The only barrier to permanent peace was not race or creed, but the lack of a common language.

It was well that no one in authority to enforce the numerous Orders-in-Council was present during the discussion of our national affairs. The repressive legislation which has emanated from Ottawa during the last few years was heartily condemned; and many a story told of the brutal enforcement of the Anti-Loafing law on men whose knowledge of English was limited. Houses have been searched for literature under the ban of our despots in Ottawa; a reign of terror prevailed in some of the camps; newspapers were seized not for what they contained, but because they were not printed in English or in the language of an Allied nation. It is still a criminal offence to have some progressive newspapers in your possession. Many are taking a chance some have been caught and fined, others are languishing in jail. Since the Armistice has been declared, freedom of speech has been restored in other countries; not so in

Canada. We must still be told what we must say and what we must read. The police have not attempted to enforce the Orders-in-Council in the cities, to the same extent as in the mining camps. If they had Canada would have been in a turmoil; as it is we are drifting rapidly that way.

The general impression was that between the repressive legislation, the anticipated industrial depression, the readjustment of the prices of commodities, including labor, that if the next twelve months those in power make no effort to change conditions, the industrial organizations would have to make an effort to do it themselves.

\* \* \*

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*There is no wealth but life. That country is the richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings.*—Ruskin.

**POLITICAL ACTION BY THE U.F.A.** The U.F.A. has at last come to the decision that independent political action is necessary, and at its convention passed a resolution which stated this necessity and left each Federal constituency to the local U.F.A. organization within the bounds of such constituencies to take whatever action politically they see fit.

This decision on the part of the U.F.A. no doubt will be a surprise to some people. The question which found the above solution at the recent convention has been before the U.F.A. for many years, but was always successfully put aside by those who have the power to put the quietus on undesirable resolutions. But this year the political undercurrent was too deep, strong and dangerous to be tampered with. Although the leaders of the U.F.A. Movement have during the past year done their best to confine the efforts of the organization to industrial activities, and leave "influence" to deal with politics, they failed to hold the surging necessity for action in check. It is scarcely more than a month since the President was speaking against the very principle which he embodied in his resolution at the convention. This fact may in a large measure account for the half-hearted character of Mr. Wood's resolution. He does not change his mind quickly; there is nothing of the hysterical, or quick-change artist about the President of the U.F.A. and we doubt whether he has been converted yet, but he was too wise a man to ignore the overwhelming drift of farmers' opinion, and hence he bows to the inevitable.

For this paper and the Movements it represents the endorsement by the U.F.A. of the basic principles of the Non-Partisan idea is a matter of self-congratulation. It means that our educational efforts have not been without fruits, and that the cause of independent political action has been furthered.

## THE U.F.A. METHOD

Having welcomed the decision of the Alberta Farmers to enter politics, and being deeply interested in the political welfare of the Western farmer we might be permitted to point out what seems to us to be weakness in the methods of procedure as indicated in Mr. Wood's resolution. As before stated each local is left to take whatever action it sees fit. This we venture to say is not organization, it is a planless plan which spells defeat. What is this but sheer individualism in politics? There is no means of co-operation provided in this method. How would it do to leave each local to take whatever course it desires in the U.F.A. organization? Seemingly not very well, for a Constitution has been carefully provided for the direction of each local, and machinery created which makes each local an organic part of a co-operative whole. If this be necessary and profitable in the U.F.A. how can a political movement get along without it? It seems to us that this method lacks the idea of organization and the co-operative principle has been entirely omitted.

We appreciate the position of Mr. Wood and the U.F.A. leaders, however, and note that they handled a difficult situation with consummate skill. They could not commit the U.F.A. officially to political action, while they could not afford to disregard the demand for such action on the part of a great majority. A scheme therefore was devised by means of which the above difficulty was cleared and everybody was satisfied. But the question comes up—is the U.F.A. entering the political field, or is it not? Mr. Wood wisely leaves each member to decide the question for himself. Time alone will prove the proper methods to follow, and for the present we congratulate the U.F.A. for having broken through the ice. The venture, whether attended by what is commonly called success or failure, has our sincere support, and we will co-operate in every possible way.

\* \* \*

## THE LIBERAL CONVENTION

At the Liberal Convention nothing very startling happened. So far as the general public was concerned it was just a Liberal Convention, nothing more or less, and it passed without even creating a ripple on the surface of our political sea. We had hoped for more than the stereotyped cut and dried conventionalities of a political machine in times like these. The time was ripe for new and far-reaching departure from the old beaten path,

and if the Liberals who we must in some respects commend for their democratic stand at the last election had broken through their party enclosures and come out boldly for a true reconstruction of society on democratic lines we might have looked upon them as a formidable defence against a threatening autocracy. The resolutions passed at this convention were resolutions to "win" on. If the Liberals or any other political organization want to be of service they must learn to fight for education and fight at times to lose, and particularly to lose themselves that they may gain thereby the general good.

It is not an uncommon thing these days for a political convention to adopt a Farmers' Program, and we are not surprised at the Liberals adopting this hitherto profitable tactic. But it is rather surprising that special emphasis should have been laid on the tariff question. We cannot forget the eighteen years of a Liberal government elected to carry out Liberal principles, (chief of which was "Free Trade") without the slightest attempt to abolish the tariff graft. Upon what grounds does this party solicit our confidence now?

In the endorsement of Sir Wilfrid Laurier as their leader the Liberals paid a well deserved tribute to one of Canada's greatest figures, and a statesman who had both the heart and the ability to serve Canada well in his day, if the Liberal party and those in control of it would have permitted him. But even Sir Wilfrid cannot save the Liberal Party, for the days of party are numbered.

\* \* \*

## CANADIAN JUSTICE

The recent trial of Arnold of Drumlaer for manslaughter created a great deal of public interest and the verdict of the jury was received with approval by all who had followed the case. Here is one of the instances of real Canadian justice of which we can be proud. The circumstances were such as might have led to a very different finding. The hatred of the enemy bred by four years of war might have affected the judgment in this case as the man on trial was a German by birth, and had been a German officer. But it is a matter for congratulation that a Canadian judge, a jury of Canadian citizens and the Canadian public could rise so splendidly above petty bias and deal with this case on its just merits. There is great hope for a country in which this kind of justice is possible.

\* \* \*

This issue must be regarded as "A Convention Issue." Much other matter on hand has been unavoidably held over.

**WHERE DID SHE GET IT?** The daily papers have announced recently in large headlines the sad news that Lady Kemp has been robbed of her jewels and furs, which she wore at a certain dinner party. The said jewels and furs were valued at \$40,000. Just think of it! This one Canadian woman had spent in the decoration of her person more than many returned soldier families will have to live on in a period of forty years. We don't like to condone thieving, but we should worry about Lady Kemp's jewels. We hope some one got them who really needs their value more than the original owner.

This incident but serves to show in a striking way the inequality of wealth in this country which has been made safe for democracy. We venture to guess that there are hundreds of girls in Calgary who have done more useful work in a year than perhaps Lady Kemp ever did, yet they are lucky to have \$40 between them and starvation. How does it come that this lady has \$40,000 to spend on jewelry? Think it over.

#### NEWS FROM THE PEACE CONFERENCE

Mr. Dafoe, the official Canadian Press correspondent at the Peace Conference, manages to write several columns of utter milk-and-water-nonsense without so much as dropping a hint at what is taking place. He reminds us of a conversation of women at a tea party in the Victorian period. He says the opening of the conference was impressive, although no one would have guessed that it impressed anything on Mr. Dafoe. He says M. Poincaré made a speech, but gives no mention of what the speech was about; mention is made of the total number of delegates, and the report finishes with a touching and minute description of the exact spots where the Canadian delegation is sitting. Surely a more intelligent account of the proceedings could be given.

What the Canadian people want to know is what the delegations are actually doing. If we are going to be called upon to defend the honor of our country forty or fifty years hence or at any subsequent period, we want to know whether the defence of such honor will be honorable. In other words, we want to know the policies to which our delegates are committing this country. If Mr. Dafoe is not allowed to give this information, he had better say so and stop using the labor of hundreds of people involved in giving publication to his vapourings.

#### A NEW SOURCE OF ELECTION FUNDS

The Canadian Official Record makes known to its readers the scope of the Canadian mission in London. To the uninitiated we will explain that the said mission is a newly developed post-bellum kind of foreign mission, which has as its one and only aim the securing of manufacturing contracts for manufacturers. The said mission in London, England, will go on the war-path for contracts, and will turn over all contracts received to the Trade Commission in Ottawa, which Ottawa Commission will in turn divide the contracts among the faithful. If there was any doubt in anyone's mind as to where the next election fund will come from, or if anyone doubted the abolition of patronage, this new foreign missionary enterprise will settle all doubts.

#### BOLSHEVISM IN WINNIPEG

As this paper has declared its disapproval of Bolshevik methods in Canada as long as there is a hope of bridging the gap between capitalist society and the collective commonwealth by constitutional means, we do not hesitate to express our disapproval of the Bolshevik methods adopted by a section of veterans and civilians in Winnipeg. The press reports brutal treatment of residents and the destroying of much property by the soldiers, as an expression by them of their antipathy to Bolshevism. The Calgary Herald rightly concludes its editorial comment by asking—"But isn't that sort of treatment merely another type of Bolshevism?"

We do not think that the action of these few veterans represents the intelligence of the returned soldiers throughout Canada and we believe it would be to the credit of the various branches of the G.W.V.A. if they would pass resolutions in repudiation of the Winnipeg affair.

With freedom, Bolshevism is impossible, with military repression and restrictive Order-in-Council Government, it will be difficult to avoid. A few high-strung individuals in Winnipeg or in any other city could not possibly bring Bolshevism in Canada if the economic and political conditions are lacking. If the returned soldiers will grant the freedom they have so bravely fought for and join with their civilian brothers in securing economic justice for all there is not the slightest danger of Canada repeating Russia.

An article on "Child Labor" by Will Workman, has been held over to next issue.

## Have You Noticed

In the daily papers, the great number of advertisements for stenographers and book-keepers? This is only the beginning. Reorganization times are coming, and clerks of all kinds will be needed. You cannot afford to wait. Let your resolve be:

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J. T. NORTH,  
Secretary.



# HOW THE FARMERS SEE IT

By Donald Cameron, Secretary  
Lakeview U.F.A., Elnora

Two weeks ago hogs were selling for \$17.75, to-day at \$13.75. To-day, the best brand of bacon is retailed in Calgary at 65c and ten to one the purchaser grows how those farmers must be coining money. This time last year both Federal and Provincial Governments urged every farmer to raise hogs. Newspapers in Canada carried pages of advice to farmers to raise more hogs, appealing to patriotism, to sentiment, to everything they could think of to induce us to raise more hogs. If a farmer suggested that he did not mind raising hogs providing he was assured against loss, (never mentioning profits) he was called unpatriotic, if not actually pro-German.

When the writer at the U.F.A. Convention at Calgary suggested that something along the lines of guarantee against loss would not hurt the farmers' patriotism, the leaders of the U.F.A. gently side-tracked the issue. The upshot of the whole matter is that the farmers raised the hogs. The crops this year were a failure, consequently many had to buy high-priced mill feed to finish their hogs, and many farmers went into debt to do it. And now what? They have approximately seventy-five per cent. of those hogs still on their hands, and to all appearances they are going to drop three to four dollars per hundred pounds on the transaction. This may be good for their patriotism, or it may not. It may tend to keep them humble, or it may have the opposite effect.

But I make one guess, and it is this: as far as the hog industry is concerned in Alberta for the immediate future—it is dead. I do not know on whose shoulders the responsibility rests, but I do know who has been made "the goat" in the matter and it is not the first time either. One wonders how it was possible to guarantee the farmers in the Republic to the south of us a price on their hogs for a certain period, and it was not possible to do the same for the Canadian farmer. Possibly the United States farmer did more to win the war. One wonders!

The same people who urged us to raise more hogs also told us to raise more wheat. These people are usually long on advice to the farmers and possibly on this occasion they may have been somewhat justified. Suffice it to say that they urged us to get the old tractors and the old plows out from the fence corners, to buy new outfits, to tear up the land, and get a big acreage ready for the 1919 wheat crop. And because we were interested in the people in those old lands, and in those splendid boys we sent "over there," the farmers did as they were told. Many bought tractors and plows at war-time prices, and went into debt to do so. Outfits that cost our fellow farmers to the south of the line from twelve to fourteen hundred dollars, cost us from sixteen to eighteen hundred dollars, the oil they burned cost them fifteen to twenty cents and the same oil cost us twenty-five to thirty cents. We worked early and late and a nice lot of new land was got ready for the 1919 wheat crop. Then what? Ye Gods! The "Calgary Herald" comes along and tells us it may not be advisable to sow this land to wheat, if we can do anything else with it.

Our friends to the south did no more to win the war than Canadians did. Yet they are assured of at least two dollars for this year's wheat crop, although it

cost them less to produce it than it will to us. I can see a lot of immigrants coming from the United States of America to Canada this year. Not if they know anything!

This is not all. We are told that manufactured goods are going to be high-priced, and certainly that they will not be lower priced. Even the "United News" in a somewhat lengthy article this month gives some excellent reasons why manufactured goods will not be any lower in price, but possibly higher. It states the manufacturers have eight months' raw material on hand, bought at war-time prices. What about the farmers with twelve months' supply of hogs on his hands, all raised on war-time prices? What about the farmers with hundreds of acres got ready for the 1919 wheat crop at war-time prices? If it is true that the manufacturers cannot reduce their prices because they have contracted for their raw material eight months ahead at war-time prices, it should be equally true that the farmers cannot afford to take less for their produce for the same reason. A maximum price was set on the principal products of the farm, no such maximum price was put on the products of the factory. They were allowed to "sky-rocket" as high as they chose.

Professor Swanson of the University of Saskatchewan made the statement at the U.F.A. Convention at Calgary last year, quoting Dun and Bradstreets as his authority, that our dollar, taking a pre-war basis, was only worth forty-five cents. That was early in 1918, and it has shrunk considerably since. Where does the farmers' two dollar wheat, and his seventeen cent hogs come in, in the light of this statement?

The United News made out a good case for the manufacturers. But not a word for the farmers' side of it. One wonders whether there may not be more truth than fiction in what L. E. Carp said after all.

What is the matter with the leaders of our farm organizations? Even our respected, president, H. W. Wood, told us recently in a speech at the "McDonald," Edmonton, that Canadians, and Western people in particular (I presume he included the farmers) had no idea of thrift. We should cultivate the habit of investing our savings in Government securities. Excellent advice, but the irony of it! Tell a man who worked for a year, sowed seed, in many cases twice, at war-time prices, paid war-time wages, paid war-time prices for his machinery, and for everything required in his home, and at the end of the year got little or nothing for his outlay, tell him he should save. What is he going to save? What has he got to invest? Tell a man to save, who sees his wife going out with the same old coat and hat for the last five or six years. Tell a man to save, who sees his children going to school thinly-clad, with worn-out shoes, and they do wear out fast. Tell a man to save, who is still living in the same old shack, and with no money to build that home he has so often built in the air. May the good Lord deliver us!

For some reason or other articles are appearing frequently in the public press, principally by men high in financial circles, stating that the farmers of the West are facing unprecedented prosperity. Now, I am living in the best part of a good country, but if the gentlemen who write those articles will take the trouble to come to Elnora, I will undertake to drive them around for a day or a week, and I will show them a few things which they must surely have overlooked. We may visit the local Bank, and the general manager

without betraying any confidence, may give us a hint as to what side of the ledger the average farmer's balance stands. We may visit the merchants and learn a few more facts from them. We shall then drive out into the country to visit those prosperous farmers right in their homes, to get a better view of things than can be got from the chair of a parlor car. We shall size up the dwellings they live in, the clothes they wear, and the fare they live on. We shall size things up generally, and after having done that, if those gentlemen are still prepared to maintain that what they wrote was true, well then, I will measure their heads and give them each the best hat in Tom Campbell's store, even if I have to sell my best cow to do so.

Your little paper is the best in Alberta. You cannot imagine the good it is doing. I often read it twice over, advertisements and all. But it has two faults. It does not come often enough, and its space is too limited. This being so, I hate to think that I would monopolize one inch of that valuable space at the expense of an abler pen than mine. But for fear that Mr. Trego should say that I am rather long on fault-finding, and short on the constructive end, permit me in a word to prescribe a remedy for our economic bondage.

Every man and every woman twenty-one years of age and upwards, who are citizens, have the remedy in their own hands. Our forefathers suffered much to acquire it. They have handed it down to us, a priceless heritage—the ballot. Use it intelligently, send none to Parliament but those you can trust absolutely to represent you, and to make the laws under which you shall live. Send them there, not as the hacks of any clique or party, but as the representatives and at the same time the servants of a free people, pledged to vote for measures that will advance the welfare of the people.

When we have done that, we can look forward to the dawning of a brighter and a better day for the men and the women who toil, and work, and do things worth while in this great new country.

—DONALD CAMERON.

## ONE FROM DAKOTA

A farmer has a little pig. He buys a lot of feed for that little pig. That little pig stands with his front feet in the trough and greedily eats all the feed that the farmer buys for him.

Question:—What is that little pig doing?

Answer:—He is making a hog of himself.

Q.—Is the little pig doing this for the benefit of the farmer who buys feed for him?

A.—Oh, no, not at all. Far from it. All the farmer gets is the benefit of the exercise derived from feeding the little pig.

Q.—Is the little pig doing this for the benefit of the people who have to bring home bacon for the family provender?

A.—No. That is further than ever from the real answer. The little pig is eating the farmer's feed and making a hog of himself for the benefit of the poor packers who need the money to pay high-salaried lobbyists to keep the people from getting state owned packing plants, from which the farmer who raises the little pig will get the profit and the consumer get the benefit of low prices.

Q.—Can the packers continue to do this?

A.—Well, not in North Dakota.

—The Fargo Courier News.

## THE U.F.A. CONVENTION

By John Glambeck,  
Sec'y Queenstown U. F. A.

Convention--a Mandate for Leaders  
to go Forward.



The Eleventh Annual Convention of the United Farmers of Alberta at Edmonton has come and gone. Between 700 and 800 delegates attended, the number being less than the two previous years, due to the "Flu" epidemic and poor crops of 1918.

But despite that fact it was one of the most enthusiastic conventions held, and on account of the great step taken toward political action it may be termed the most progressive convention held. The U.F.A. had come to the parting of the ways, the organization was at the cross-roads. Thanks to the past two years' educational propaganda done by those who from the first believed in the need for independent political action such a force of feeling had been built up among the rank and file farmers that, as one of the directors stated, "It was irresistible and there was no way open but to go forward and take up the fight in future in that direction." Thus again we see the value of educational work. Wherever a small number of determined spirits decide to strike out for a certain goal, provided that cause is right and a just one, no matter what opprobrium is endured or difficulties encountered that cause in time is bound to appeal to right thinking people and win out in the end. "No one can calculate the debt that is due to those pioneers who, convinced they are right, set out on a lone path in an endeavor to convince their fellow men and women and to get them to come with them."

And again the delegates might remember the very unfair and inadequate reports given in the party press to the addresses of Mrs. McKinney and Mr. Leedy. It shows the need for farmers controlling and maintaining their own press if they are ever to make any headway against those who would like to still go on running things for them. The reporters have a knack of twisting things to suit themselves and upon which the editors or sub-editors build glaring headlines featuring just those items which it is desired to impress upon the public at large, many of whom only read the headlines given and then enlarge loquaciously upon "What happened at the Convention!"

But to get back to the record of the Convention. It was soon evident to me as I came in contact with the delegates that they were convinced the old method of warfare was not sufficient, and that instead of passing resolutions begging for legislation from governments, (who for the most part represent those interests which oppress us) we as farmers without party ties would have to be directly represented in those governments and get the legislation desired. I was glad to find this and large numbers of delegates complimented the efforts we are making through the medium of this paper in rousing farmers to take the desired action.

In response to the wave of feeling that had been rising for some time the leaders of the U.F.A., who up to recently had not approved of any step in this direction,

became equal to the occasion and the Executive brought in a resolution for independent political action which was unanimously carried. As the resolution was only read from the platform I hope to be able to sift out the merits or demerits of the plan as it appeals to me on a future occasion. The resolution does not appear to make the U.F.A. organization a political party, but it gives U.F.A. members in various districts the right to call a convention for the purpose of taking independent political action and if ten per cent. of the locals so desire they will receive assistance from the Central Office and the Executive Committee. Although the President was noncommittal and said we could call it what we liked, it means to me that the U.F.A. is into politics and that the organization has now accepted as right the principle a few of us have for so long been striving for. As I understand the Non-Partisan League had previously offered co-operation in any step taken provided the principles on which it was founded was safe-guarded, the future is now full of hope for the farmers and I trust the two executives will soon get together, elaborate their plans, and then that every democrat will work his hardest to bring about the desired result.

With one exception the old executive was re-elected and only a few changes was made on the board of directors. I do not know the reason for Mr. Leedy's withdrawal from the executive but regret that the benefit of his long experience in problems that affect farmers will be lost to them for even one year. The reception given him by the convention would have assured him re-election. His successor, Mr. Greenfield, is a new man to me but of the others, W. D. Trego impressed me most and was for the most part progressive and definite in his viewpoint. Rice Shepard was sincere and earnest in his efforts and though almost a veteran was perhaps the most progressive along new lines of thought. I did not like P. Baker's method or manner. It was dominant and overbearing, and too much reminiscent of the autocrat recently interned in Holland. Despite the arguments used in justifying the departure from proportional representation I regret this as being a retrograde step especially as it is one of the planks of our Farmers' Platform. We should stick to our principles despite any disadvantage, for principles at all times are bigger than men and will live longest. The change, too, did not work out well in practice, nearly the whole of Wednesday being taken up in electing the Executive.

The discussion of the present and proposed system of banking between Mr. Vere Brown, Western Manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and Mr. J. W. Leedy, took up most of Thursday. Mr. Leedy made a delightful speech and it was evident he is an authority on this question, which is one of the many problems now vitally affecting farmers that can only be remedied by legislation. Mr. Leedy's ready wit was greatly enjoyed and he made out a powerful case for the small farmer and homesteader to be given assistance in developing our natural resources. Mr. Brown spoke for nearly three hours in reply and took the official attitude expected, enlarging more on the stability of the banks and Wall Street finance, than on establishing a banking system that will meet the requirements of the country we live in. I would like to see Mr. Leedy's speech printed so that all farmers could read. One very effective point made was in showing that Sir Montague Allen, President Merchants Bank, was also Director for 30 or 40 other

concerns and enterprises in Canada. Mr. Leedy took the first name in a book full of them, and which he stated had not been allowed to be printed since 1912. It was an object lesson to farmers how the big interests are intertwined with each other, and while these people through their press call the farmers profiteers when getting \$2.20 wheat, yet they draw enormous profits and dividends not from one official position but from a large number of other concerns. Why don't the people own their own banks? Echo answers, "Why?"

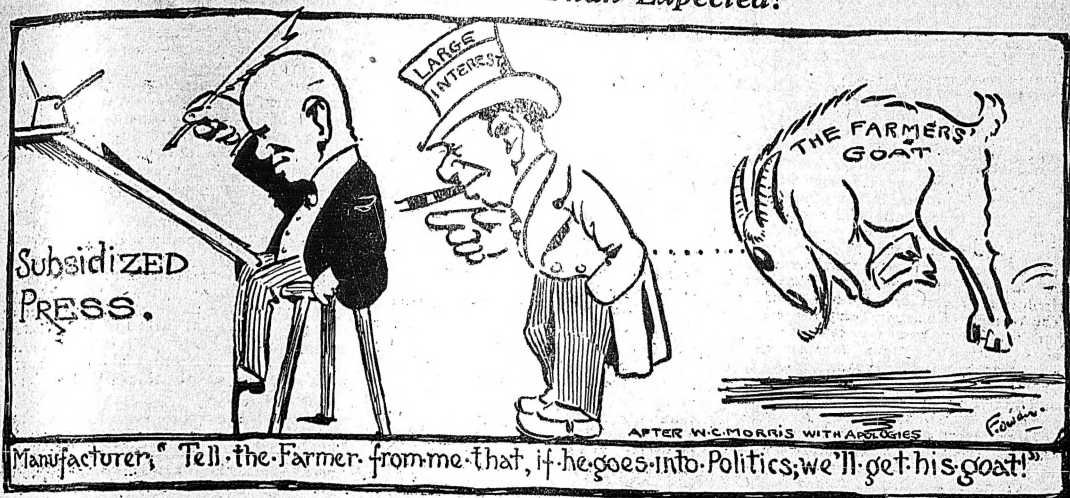
Friday, the last day of the Convention came with a huge number of the resolutions untouched and the procedure of the convention demands serious attention from the executive if it is to be handed down as a success in future as in the past. It is also hard on the locals to have their resolutions tabled and passed over without discussion or handed over to an executive to handle the best way they can. A democratic organization should be careful not to establish an autocratic bureaucracy. I have not space to deal with all the resolutions the most important outside of political action, and the banking resolutions was the Municipal Hail Insurance, and the demand for action to stop speculation in grain. Important discussions took place on the U.F.A. retaining the right given them to administer estates instead of turning it over to the U.G.G., that on proportional representation and the policy of The Guide aroused considerable criticism; the executive promised reform as far as the Alberta page goes. There were a few amendments made to the "Farmers' Platform" of the Council of Agriculture but here again there was not time enough for proper discussion.

There was some good talent among the delegates. Ex-President Warner and Mr. Clark of Irma, was prominent in the old brigade, while Wiertz, of Youngstown, Henry, of Bow Island; Herbert, of Strathcona, and Guy Johnson, of Vulcan, were outstanding among the younger delegates. Both Mr. Herbert and Guy Johnson should have a big future ahead of them in the farmers' movement, both being progressive and aggressive young men. One cannot overlook the fact that Mr. Weir's clever and humorous speeches went far to make the convention enjoyable. His stand on many vital matters affecting the welfare of the farmers and his wide knowledge on public affairs will be bound to tell in future. Throughout the convention he fought an uphill battle but came through the ordeal unruffled and with far more support than he started with. Smith, of Sedgewick, among the directors impressed me most, and he made some very short and pithy speeches. As the convention grows in importance the younger delegates might come better prepared on the subjects they wish to speak on and as a body the delegates should not be too ready to be swayed by platform appeals, always looking at the principles on which their action is based before voting. More education in our press along these lines will help to remedy these things in future. I want to see the delegates self-assertive and having full control of their own parliament.

I missed hearing Mr. Wheatley, the new president of the Alberta Federation of Labor, but heard he made a good impression. Wednesday night was the night of the convention, being given over to speakers on independent political action. W. R. Ball gave a good address showing how Canada is in the grip of the monopolists, and John Kennedy, from Winnipeg, also spoke on political action. But the greatest speech of the whole convention



# Yes!---Quicker Than Expected!



was given by Mrs. L. C. McKinney, of Claresholm, the first woman legislator elected in the British Empire, and who was elected as a Non-Partisan representative of the Farmers' Political Movement. In a masterful manner she described the birth and progress of the Farmers' Movement in the Great West, the only natural place for such a movement to grow and flourish. She pictured in graphic detail the advance made in the commercial side as evidenced by the growth of the U.G.G., in the educational and co-operative work of the U.F.A., and how two years ago the political side of the movement was born when a few farmers established the Non-Partisan League and set out to educate their fellow farmers to the need of supplementing the efforts of the other two organizations in the political field.

Now the long-looked-for day for the workers had arrived, democracy must be established securely in Canada, and the door of opportunity for the farmers lay in independent political action through the Non-Partisan League, and which was established primarily to destroy the party system in politics and to enable the people to obtain ownership of the Government. Economic betterment would then follow as the people desired.

Here again I hope the speech can be printed and sown broadcast. It made a tremendous impression on the crowded audience present, and who at the close with one accord rose to their feet and expressed their approval in thunderous applause. Mrs. McKinney is an uplifting type of speaker the farmers wish to hear and one can only hope others who possess a similar forceful appeal will be invited to future conventions.

To a farmer intensely interested in problems that affect their every-day life, as all farmers should be, the convention added once more to the joy of life. I enjoyed to the full the cryptic criticisms, the wit and humor, and the earnest appeals made by so many of the delegates. While differences of opinion was freely expressed yet such a gathering teaches tolerance and respect for the other fellow's opinion, and except for the crush of business at the close, I think most delegates left satisfied with what had been accomplished. I do not know what

measure of success was obtained by the United Women, but I trust the time is not far distant when men and women will sit together in one convention to discuss the many problems that affect them both and which are awaiting a solution that only men and women together can find.

The Convention was a mandate for the Executive to go ahead, and can be recorded as another milestone passed (and an important one at that) on the road toward the betterment of humanity. If the U.F.A. only remains true to its ideals and extends the hand of fellowship and co-operation to other organizations working for the same end then "Our Day" will arrive all the sooner. Let us seek every means possible of enlisting the help of all workers and get to our goal the quicker. The last four years has taught a new spirit of comradeship that must be exemplified in our conduct in the future. Even though the road may be strewn with rocks and many a hard battle may yet have to be fought and won, yet as an organization the future is in our own hands and it depends wholly on ourselves what it shall be. As Mrs. McKinney so eloquently said: "The day of our opportunity is here."

"Let us realize the glory of the coming of that day  
When all shall give their honest work  
And take their honest pay.  
And poverty, the social curse, be wholly swept away—  
That day is marching on!

"We have seen it in the writing of a thousand men who know,  
We have heard it in the meeting where the crowding workers go,  
We have felt it in the people's heart where all great movements grow—  
That day is marching on!"

—JOHN GLAMBECK.

The stockbrokers generally work on a five-hour basis—from ten to three—yet they raise an awful protest if labor demands an eight-hour day!

Now, will any sane person advance the notion that the work of a stockbroker is either as hard or as productive as that of the average laborer?

## THE WORKHOUSE TO GO

The Government has announced through Dr. Addison, Minister of Health, their decision to abolish the Poor Law System along with the Boards of Guardians. We congratulate those who ten years ago drafted the minority Report of the Poor Law Commission, for this is to what in all essentials the Government is now publicly pledged. And we must not forget to congratulate those who for years so energetically expounded it up and down the country on the success of their propagandist efforts. Though scant attention was at first given them they stuck to their task, as only social reformers can, until they had converted to their scheme not only the responsible administrators of our Local Government, but finally the Local Government Board and the War Cabinet itself.

—The New Statesman.

## WHERE WAS MOSES WHEN THE LIGHT WENT OUT?

During the election in Britain the use of the Albert Hall, London, was engaged for a big Labor Demonstration organized by Mr. George Lansbury. Full knowledge of the nature of the meeting was given the manager of the Hall, deposit money was paid and the contract signed. The meeting was advertised and 19,000 applications for tickets was received. Then, four days before the date of the meeting, the contract was cancelled by the management. The Labor men asked both the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary to intervene; but both declined. Then Labor settled the matter for itself, the Electrical Trades Union took a hand, its members disconnected the main electric light cables and declared the connecting links would not be restored till permission to hold the meeting was granted. The hall manager fell back on the use of gas but labor declared the whole area would be plunged into darkness. The result was the light was restored to the hall and the meeting was held. Incidentally a fresh light dawned upon Labor that it is time to impress upon those whom it may concern vigorously and effectually that Labor is determined not to be stifled.

—THE CO-OPERATIVE NEWS

## The Farmer's Opportunity

Mrs. McKinney's great speech at the U.F.A. Convention, Edmonton,  
January 22nd, 1919

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:—

I count it no small honor to have been asked at this time to address this convention. While this is the first time I have ever spoken from the convention platform I have attended the meetings at every convention for a number of years.

The first time I attended a convention of the U.F.A. was in the City of Lethbridge. Your former secretary, Mr. Woodbridge, invited me to come on that occasion as the farmers were going to introduce a resolution regarding Woman Suffrage. The Women's Christian Temperance Union had previously passed a resolution that we at once enter upon a campaign for equal franchise in the Province of Alberta. The United Farmers' Executive passed a similar resolution and they were the first organization to have petitions printed looking toward the introduction into the Alberta Legislature of a resolution asking for

### The Enfranchisement of Women

And it was on the occasion of the launching of that action that I was asked to come to Lethbridge that we might in some way co-operate. So my connection with the United Farmers has been more or less close and very cordial all through the years, and we worked together hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder, for this reform, we might call it, and then we have worked together in other ways. I have had a warm feeling for the United Farmers of Alberta in their organization all these years, and I am proud most of all, not only that I, who have the honor to be the first woman elected to a Legislative Assembly in the British Empire—that I not only am an Independent, but that I represent the farmers of the Province of Alberta. (Applause.)

Strangely enough, sixteen years ago when we were planning to come to the Province of Alberta, my heart was not filled with gladness. Perhaps other farmers' wives in the audience will sympathize or at least will understand the situation. I came under protest (laughter), and when one of my friends at our former home asked, "What do you suppose it is in that Province that charms every man who goes there?" I replied, "I don't know but I am going to spend the whole of the first summer trying to find out!" I think I found out and I am afraid that the cause was somewhat contagious. What was the charm of the new country? Well, as I interpret it, the charm is this: The country is developing; things are moving, and I am helping them to grow. (Applause) That is the spirit that has made the wonderful development of the West possible, and that is the spirit that possesses the Western farmer, and you don't blame him. There is something very fascinating indeed about seeing things grow. You go out on the fields and it is not all the clink of the coin that you see in yonder growing grain. You will appreciate it if you get your crop safely marketed, but that is not all of it.

### Farmers Love to See Things Grow

They love to see things develop, and not only things that are growing on soil; we love to see the young animals develop; we love to cultivate plants, flowers. You take that bulb and you bury it in the soil and, even though when it does bloom the blossom will last but a few days, the next year you will plant more bulbs because you love to see things grow. And

that is one of the charms with children; we like to see them develop; just love to see them grow up, and we like to be connected with movements that are developing. (Applause.) We like to be connected with going concerns, don't we? I have been reading "Deep Furrows." Have you? I found it interesting, and I find a great cause for enthusiasm among the farmers and I see why the farmers like to be connected with this great movement, because it has been growing and it has been interesting.

### Movements Are Interesting

When you come to study one movement you find how movements have a sort of dove-tailing, fitting into each other. Go to study the history of any one progressive movement that you like, whether in this country or in any other country, whether it is among the farmers or any other class of people, you find somehow movements have a way of just fitting into each other, and when you read the history of them it is impossible to separate any one movement from every other movement of its age because contemporary movements have a way of fitting the one into the other.

After all, the Farmers' Movement was a marvellous thing. We were told years ago the farmers could not organize and we believed it. Then it was said if farmers did organize they would not stick together. And we believed that! Circumstances seemed to prove it, but now we are somewhat surprised that this organization has actually continued to grow and, to all appearances, it is now here to stay. (Applause.)

### Why Did It Come Into Existence?

Did you note the time when it came into existence and the place where it came into existence? In this great, broad Western country. People said the reason why farmers' organizations were not a success was because farmers were so isolated; farmers' communities were so isolated the one from the other. I presume that was true, but this organization came into existence here in this splendid West where we have vast stretches of country and where we have enough people who had a community of interest that it was possible for them to have some common ground on which to organize. That was the place where this effective organization came into existence, on the broad prairie where there was room for enough people to have common interests, enough people to make it worth while organizing; that was the place.

### And the Time?

The time when the farmer had outgrown a great deal that once meant a handicap. Farmers came to this West from the eastern part of the Dominion; they came from over the seas; they came from across the border; they brought with them their years of experience; they brought with them the ideas that they had gained in their various places of abode; they brought together a great combination of idea, of ideal, of sentiment. That was when this organization came into existence, and it came into existence in a place where the people were not hampered by precedent. We wonder why changes do not take place more rapidly in the Old Land and in older settled parts of the Dominion. It is because precedent is a very great fetter, upon the progress of events sometimes and where people are bound by

precedent new movements cannot rise and cannot grow. So it was in the great, free Western land, unhampered by precedent, that this movement came into existence. (Applause.)

Then it came into existence here in the West where people came together—different nationalities, different shades of opinion, with a difference in their former environment; they came together in this land where suspicion gave place to tolerance. It could not have had its birth elsewhere, but here in the great West where no man is asked whether his father was a prince or a peasant, where suspicion gives place to tolerance, these are the conditions under which this great movement was born; and there is no cause for surprise that the movement had grown because, when we think of the conditions, the birth of the movement and the growth of the movement are the most natural things in the world. We did not see that at the beginning but looking back upon it now, these are the things that we cannot help seeing.

### What Are the Results of the Organization?

You know better than I do the tangible results of this organization. You know how marketing conditions and all that sort of thing have been improved, and I could not tell you anything you did not know already as to what has been the results in the moral field. Farmers have learned not only the value of co-operation, not only the necessity for co-operation, but they have learned how to co-operate. (Applause.) And that is a valuable lesson. It is one thing to know any theory and it is another thing to be able to put your theory into practice. The farmers have put into practice what they have learned as to the necessity and as to the desirability of co-operating; they have actually found out how to co-operate—something the farmer was supposed never to have been able to learn in former days. The farmer has learned not only the value of organization but he has learned how to organize—a valuable lesson. He, perhaps, was a bit slow at learning but once he got the idea he has been a very apt scholar. And so we find that he knows the value of organization and he knows the method of organization, and he has organized and is well organized—not as well as he ought to be yet. Some of us are just a bit suspicious of organization yet; more of us are just a bit careless of organization yet, but he is rapidly becoming organized and

### Not a Day Too Soon.

The farmer has learned another lesson as a result of this organization; he has learned that, in spite of the traditions handed down from his forefathers, that the interests of the Western farmer are common interests, that he is not divided in the things that are really to his interests, and that was a hard lesson for him to learn. It took him long years to learn that. Now, when I say interests I mean all interests; I mean the conditions that govern the raising of crops; I mean the conditions that govern the marketing of crops, the conditions that govern his bank account; the conditions that govern his purchase of farm machinery; I mean all of these interests and I mean the interest that is linked up with everyone of these things, which is his political interest. (Applause.) And the farmers have learned that the real interests of farmers are one; the things that are of vital importance are common and that they are not divided in their interests. He has learned another lesson; he has learned to finance his own organization. (Applause.) Not so stupid



after all, is he? (Laughter.) He has learned

#### To Finance His Own Organization

And that was one of the supposedly impossible things. And he has learned the value of the press and the power of education. Those are lessons which the farmer has learned in the hard school of experience. A politician in the Province of Alberta, a member of the Dominion House, is reported to have said: "The way to stop grafting was to stop grafting." (applause) and the farmer has learned things by doing them, has learned them in the hard but very effective school of experience, and experience is a very good teacher, even though sometimes it is said that experience is not very much use after all because, by the time you have it paid for you don't need it any more. But that is not the case with the farmer's experience; he has paid for this experience and he is finding it a very useful asset. (Applause). He is putting it into practice and it is leading him on.

#### Leading Him Whither?

You send a boy to school and he gets his education and the boy comes out of the school and you expect him to go to work and use that education and put it into practice, and the boy stands hopelessly. I don't wonder, because our educational institutions are linked up so poorly with our practical, industrial, commercial world it is no wonder the boy does not know what to do with himself when he gets out of school sometimes. (Applause.) But why has he grown? Why has he received an education? Why has he developed into such a splendid specimen of manhood? What is the answer? That he may go out and be of some use in the world.

And so we are asking that of the farmers' organization to-day. We look on this splendid organization that is built up and I have only outlined a few of the things it has accomplished; and we look at it and say:

#### Why This Splendid Organization?

Well, you say, it means that at least we are getting a better price for our grain. Is that all it means? It means that those fellows down at Winnipeg and elsewhere are not going to get the best of us the way they did a few years ago. Is that what it means? It means that railways, the C.P.R. and other railways, are giving us better accommodation and they are going to continue to give us better accommodation or we will know why. Is that all it means? It means that the shipping facilities at the head of the lakes are very much improved and we are going to get better markets and we are going to do co-operative marketing and we are going to expand. Is that all it means? Is that the outlook of the Western farmer? Is that all the farmers' organization means to-day?

#### What Day Is This In Which We Are Living?

There never was such a day as this in which to have lived. Things have been happening with such rapidity and they have been happening upon such a big scale that we don't comprehend the greatness of the day in which we are living. What day is this in which we are living? A day when no farmer in this great Canada, on this great prairie, could look his brother farmer or his brother man in the face and say that I am helping to build up an organization that will give me a few cents more for wheat. Oh, no! That is where we started; that was our thought when we started in but that is

not our thought to-day. What is the day in which we are living? The greatest day in the world's history. The war is over; we won't recall any of its horrors at this moment, but the war is over, and the age, the day that we have looked forward to with such longing, with such anxiety, has arrived, and this is

#### The Day After the War

What about it? This is the day when all of the wonderful things are to happen, after the war. What is going to take place after the war? Why did we fight? Why were we told we were fighting? Why were the boys told they were fighting? Why were we at home told to keep brave-hearted? Why were the mothers and fathers urged that they might give their sons? To keep Germany from coming over here? Oh, yes. It wasn't said that way. We were fighting for democracy. (Applause.)

#### What Is Democracy?

Wars have a purpose, whether we approve of them or not, and we are simply stating the purpose. The American Civil War struck a blow at a great evil and the shackles were struck off from human slaves, and that was the final blow in the great struggle to over-throw human slavery. That was one form of autocracy, and we believe that the war in Europe, if it has accomplished nothing else, has been the death blow to the idea of the divine right of kings. (Applause.) And we believe that no more will any individual dare to lift his presumptuous head, and talk about "Me und Gott" (Laughter.) Why, that is the boast of the British Empire to-day, that our King, to put it in the words of President Wilson over there the other day—President Wilson said, in the presence of King George, responding to the toast of King George, he said: "All the great nations over which you and I have the honor to preside," and nobody took exception, I presume our splendid king received it as a compliment. (Applause.) Because the British people boast that our king does not rule but he does preside, and we honor him for it and we boast about it, and I presume he boasts of it himself and he is called our democratic King (Hear, hear!) and that is why the people honor him. (Applause.) So the death blow is struck at the divine right of kings.

Now, the other day I was looking about to find

#### A Definition For Autocracy

Sometimes a word comes to be very popular and when we try to put into every-day English, our interpretation of that word, we find it difficult, so about the best interpretation I could think for autocracy was this—"Autocracy is the idea that one individual, or set of individuals, is born to lord it over the rest of humanity." (Applause.) That is rather a homely wording of it but I could not think of anything that expressed it more clearly to my ordinary mind. But the idea that one individual or set of individuals is born to lord it over the rest of humanity; and then to be told we were fighting to destroy autocracy over in Germany (Applause) and when you get that thing down into every-day English and bring it home from Germany and look at it right here in the broad daylight, where distance does not lend any enchantment but where it is very near to ourselves, what is it?

#### It Is the Same Principle

We haven't any kaiser over here, that is, we haven't any Kaiser Bill (Laughter) but it seems to me though that there is an idea abroad in Canada that there is

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some autocracy on Canadian soil. (Applause.) There is an impression that won't down, that while the leaders of the nations are yonder in Europe settling peace terms, and while our boys are coming back, that there is some work yet to be done in the Dominion of Canada before conditions that will make for permanent peace are established here. (Applause.) We have paid an awful price to kill the idea of the divine right of kings.

#### Where Is the Autocracy At Home?

And we find that when we look at home that there yet remains among us an autocracy in our commercial world, (Applause) an autocracy that has its tentacles out all over this Dominion, and that autocracy breathes upon another form of autocracy, that is the autocracy in our political world. Without looking farther afield for autocracy in the Dominion of Canada we are brought face to face with this fact, that while one war overthrew the type of autocracy that made it possible for human beings to be made slaves to their fellows, while another war has overthrown the type of autocracy that made it possible for an autocratic ruler to sit upon a throne, yet there are forms of autocracy awaiting our attention right here, and two of the outstanding forms that take is autocracy in our commercial world and in our political world.

#### What Are We Going To Do About It?

Will the world some day have to face another war? God forbid! but if it does not it means that the task before the Canadian people to-day is to rid the land of two forms of autocracy. That is what it means. That is the task before the Canadian people to-day; and I asked a moment ago why a farmers' organization? To raise the price of wheat? Oh, not only that; that is a part of it; that was the beginning of it, the farmers' organization, and the words of the ancient Jew come down through the ages and they speak just as telling a truth to-day as they did when they were uttered to that young Jewish Queen, "Who knoweth but thou art coming to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

#### There Is the Meaning--Opportunity

A great farmers' organization built up in all its strength, in all its virility and possibilities to come to the climax of its strength at such a day as this. There is the door that opens before the farmers' organization. Before the war people were getting their suspicions of political parties and the parties said very uncomplimentary things about each other. (Laughter.) Then women came into the political field and they began to think definitely and where they should ally themselves in the political world, and bids were made from the one and the other and the most of the women have not been able to see very much difference. (Applause.) Some of them see a little difference, or imagine they do, but most of them don't. You remember just a few months ago at the time of the last election that the people who were not intending to support the Union Government said that the Union Government was a line-up of the profiteers of the whole Dominion, (Applause) and you believed them; and then the Union Government returned the compliment and they said, "Well, I'd like to know who it is that is talking about us; it isn't so very long since you folks were in power, some of you, and what did you do when you were there?" (Applause.) You believed that our country,

#### Canada, Had Risen In Its Strength

and that the day of the patronage system had got to go. The thing was corrupting all our life, and it had to go. And the politician said, "Yes, it has to go." But the Union Government said, "Well, no one political party could abolish it but we will;—but it is not abolished. (Laughter and applause.) And we agree with the Union Government thus far, that no one political party can do it, and we go a step farther and say no two political parties can do it, (Applause) not constituted as political parties are. Yet we find now the war is over—people who said, things will never settle back again as they were before; that the day of political partyism is done and done forever, and now the war is over, what is happening? The same bid being made to win men and women alike,—“You are jolly good fellows; we forget it all; you were patriotic and we waved flags all together, but we will just forget all of this thing and go on.” (Applause.) And if some person raised an objection—“Oh, yes, you are a good fellow; we will give you a part of what you want; come on and stand back of us.” But in the four years that we have been fighting we have been learning things, (Applause) doing things,—we have been asking questions—insisting upon an answer, and the people are not so easily duped as they were four years ago. And not only have the Western farmers united, but East has joined hands with West (Applause);

#### There Is No East and West Any More

We stand to-day before an open door and the farmers are going to enter that door of opportunity. They say,—we will have none of this, we have looked beneath the surface and we have found out some principles that have to be enacted into law; we have found out some principles that must be lived out in the life of the people, and we find that, despite the opinion of our fathers, we can no longer line up in the same old way behind the same old machine to tread the same old road to destruction (Applause), and so the day has come when the farmers have gone into the carpenter business.

#### And Built a Platform

—And the farmers in building that platform did one thing more and said, “Now, you fellows go out and employ any means you like to, get men elected who are pledged to support that platform.” Why, the easiest thing in the world. That's no trouble! Would any man appear before any rural electorate in Canada to-day and say that he would not pledge himself to support a farmers' platform? (Laughter.) Why, most of them would do it in all sincerity, but away at the other end of the line is

#### A Power That Owns the Party

that is asking that man pledged to support your platform to line up behind him. You know we are morally sure of it, though perhaps we can't prove it; and the farmer sees this and he says, “No, we have got to go at it some other way,” and so in that platform he says, “You have got to abolish the patronage system,”—and then, bless you, he lines up behind the party that couldn't live if it was not for the patronage system, couldn't continue to exist. You know it better than I do, because you have been longer in the business than I have, you know if it were not for the party funds and the patronage system that the parties could not stay in power as they do. Those are two things that keep them in and yet they ask us, because they adopt our tariff policy, platform or some other plank, to line up behind

them and some day you will get those planks if you are real good and have patience long enough. The farmer says, “No,” and in our farmers' platform we say some very straight things, and we mean them and we are right.

Now, the U.F.A. in the past has not gone into politics, and I congratulate it for not having gone into politics, and I am not going to advise you to go into politics because you know your own business better than I do. I imagine that most of the delegates here have just as much wisdom as I have in the matter. I know whatever you do will be done in all sincerity and what you believe to be the best. But the question arises, how are we going to be able to work out what we have put into our platform, because we have been discouraged with the other fellows long enough. I think I am right in saying political parties never were known to fulfil all their pledges. If I am wrong I will stand corrected if any person wants to bring evidence. I have not known of their fulfilling them all. But how are we going to do it?

Now, I see on the horizon another movement, a cloud no bigger than a man's hand, but a movement that did not, in its inception, foresee this day, but a movement that answers the question, How? A movement known as

#### The Non-Partisan Political Movement

(Applause) an organization known as the Non-Partisan Political League, the Farmers' Non-Partisan Political League. Who thought of that? I don't know who thought of it but while some of our splendid leaders were busy working out the educational and the commercial plans of the farmers there were others that were not quite so busy with that end and while these men who were working out the one problem had not the time just then and they didn't think the time just right then to give to it, there was someone else who said, “The farmers need some channel of expression for their political opinions,” and so the Non-Partisan Political League came into existence. And the fact that it exists is of more importance than who brought it into existence. It is here. How big is it? Well, it has about six thousand farmers in Alberta and their wives. Not every one of those farmers has a wife but nearly all of them have, and so that means about ten thousand people who are members of the Non-Partisan Political League.

Well, will it adopt the farmers' platform? No; it is the farmers' platform.

#### It Is The Farmers' Platform

Why, it is simply another mode of expression; it is the political expression of the farmer. The U.F.A. is the educational expression; the U.G.G. is the commercial expression; and the Non-Partisan League is the political expression of the same people. And that is the one organization that does not have to adopt the farmers' platform because it is the farmers' platform. Well, you say, it's a dangerous thing; it is another party you are trying to crowd in on us. Well, I read in “Deep Furrows” that “This merger is unique in that the objections to the monopoly cannot be urged against it. There is no watered stock. The proxy vote is eliminated so no group of men can gain control of the Company's affairs; stock held by individuals limited to \$2,000 of capitalization, and so instead of exploiting the public the aim is service.” (Applause.) True to their type, the farmers are doing the very same thing in the Non-Partisan League.



### Its Aim Is Service

No danger of a political party— Why? First of all, we have not got any party funds, that is, from the folks higher up. The party funds are subscribed by the individual members of the organization. (Applause.) Well, we have run four provincial election campaigns; we ran the campaigns in three Dominion constituencies and the funds were paid not by the candidates but out of the funds of the League subscribed by the individual members. Are we bankrupt? Oh, no, we bought five thousand dollars worth of Bonds the other day; still got some money left, and any of you men want to buy a second-hand automobile,—we've got a few of those. (Laughter.) I am not sure they are for sale, but we have got them. And we didn't lose all the elections because we have two members in the Legislature. We didn't elect any in the Dominion House because— Oh, well, never mind why; we are going to win the next time. And this is some of the things that have happened, and this organization is the political expression of the farmers. And what about some of those other things? Well, the two members who are in the Legislature, and all the others who were nominated, the day they received their nomination signed their recall. Now, the members of this U.F.A. organization got the recall in its platform; the Canadian Council of Agriculture has it there, and of course, the same people have it in their political platform, but

**The Candidates Sign Their Recall** and that is giving as great expression to their belief in it as they know how to give. Do you know any better way of expressing it?

And will this not be dangerous? Well, when we have the recall and the referendum and the initiative, if the people do not then get what they want it will be their own fault. Then they will not have to come as suppliant deputations to legislators, they will talk as man to man and say, "Don't you think we had better do this and so?" (Applause.) It will make a difference, and it will not be nearly so difficult then for politicians to interpret the thought of the people just as they wish. (Applause.) These are

**The Glorious Days That Are Coming** And we are helping them to come. Oh, these are great days in which to live and this is the opportunity, the door of which stands open before the farmers, not only in Alberta but the farmers of the whole Dominion.

You have been studying things and you may have read the programme sent out by the Canadian Committee on Reconstruction. Speaking of the combination—amalgamation, any kind of combination in a commercial way for commercial interests, it says: "Such development is not only desirable in some cases but is practically inevitable under modern economic conditions, and we think that the attitude of public opinion, of local authorities and of the state which, broadly speaking, has hitherto been more or less avowedly antagonistic to the very principle of combination must be modified." Yes, do you see the necessity of the great farming community getting their representatives on the floor of the House of every Legislature in this Dominion? Do you see that? One thing that I have learned in my short experience is that no matter where you put a man he is himself. Someone asked me what I hoped for the women to bring into Parliament, and I said: "Well the most important thing they could bring was themselves, their

own viewpoint," and you ask me why I advocate the election of farmers,—not a representative of a farmer, but

**The Election Of Farmers Themselves**—because they are themselves, and you need those men, with their viewpoint, with their point of vision, you need those in the Legislative halls of to-day. That is why I would send them there, send the man not only who adopts your platform as a policy, not a man who will come before you and pledge himself over his heart (?) that he stand true to you and he will represent you,—send one of yourselves who is one of yourselves. (Applause.) He will represent the farmers, he couldn't do anything else if he tried. That is the kind of man to send there because we need them. We need that viewpoint to offset the other influences, and you are going to do it and we are going to combine, men and women—and don't forget, gentlemen, that the women's vote will not all go to an independent. Oh, no! A woman said to me a few days ago: "You know, we need the Liberal Party; we really need them. I think they are serving a very good purpose because they propose some very good things," and then just after she said: "When the Conservative Party proposes legislation they don't do it just to catch votes; they're honest." Now, you have heard men say that, haven't you? (Laughter.) Well, there are a few women who are saying it, and not every woman is going to vote independent.

Now, I said non-partisan a minute ago; now it's independent. Well, non-partisanship is merely organized independence, that is all it is; it is organized independence. Well, where is this thing going to lead us and what is the future of it? It is going to lead just where you desire it, and the future of it is going to be just what you make it, because it is a democratic movement and it is here in the interests of democracy, and you are the people and

### It Is Your Movement

It rests with you what the future of it will be, and if it needs any changing you are going to be wise enough, and big enough, and courageous enough to change it. It takes a man of courage to change things. What need we fear for the future of Canada if we have those thousands of agriculturists lined up behind a policy, a democratic movement? Then Canada will be safe! Because some day they will link themselves up with other forces of progress and the difficulties that confront us, and the autocracy that threatens us, will not wait to be overthrown by force of the kind that we think of in connection with revolution, but it will be overthrown by a revolution in moral forces and a bloodless revolution, and that is what Canada wants. (Applause.)

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## THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

Medicine Hat, Alta., Jan. 9th, 1919.  
Editor, ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN:—

You will doubtless agree with me that the value of a paper is largely dependent upon the truths set forth by its editor.

I have before me a copy of THE ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN, issue of January 2nd, 1919. In the editorial "Back-Scratching," you state that the Constitution of America, meaning the United States, contains a clause "which prohibits the President from going on foreign soil." I am a United States citizen and entirely familiar with every line of its Constitution. There is no such clause as you mention in it, nor is there any language used from which such an inference could be drawn. You can satisfy yourself by reading a copy of its constitution, which can be found in Montgomery's History of the United States, in any public library.

The President, by his oath of office, as therein set forth, becomes the guardian of that constitution. You may not have intended that your editorial should read that Mr. Wilson, the President of the United States, had violated his oath of office and set the constitution at naught, when he went abroad, but there could have been no other reading, had your statement been true, which happily it is not.

It would seem to me to be distinctly up to you to correct the error in your next issue.

—ARCH. R. DEWEY.

NOTE:—We regret having made the mistake drawn attention to, and are grateful to our correspondent for having taken the trouble to enlighten us. The fact is we took our impression from the daily press, but upon closer investigation discover that all the talk about President Wilson's not going to the Peace Conference was based upon a precedent set by other Presidents, and not based on any constitutional authority. For our part we should agree to President Wilson's going to the Conference if it broke all the precedents and constitutions known in all history, because he can do a service to the world by being there which seemingly no other man appears to have either the ability or inclination to try. Nevertheless the idea of keeping American Presidents at home is a good safeguard against undue Royal influence. We believe, however, that President Wilson has had more formidable difficulties to overcome than a \$15,000,000 tea set.

—THE EDITOR.

## CONCERNING MANY THINGS

Mannville, Alta., Jan. 15, 1919.  
Mr. Editor:—

It's a while since I expressed my opinions on the various controversies engaging the public mind. There are so many I scarcely know where to begin, and when started where I shall stop.

In the first place, it both disgusts and amuses me to hear and read the abuse which is heaped on this "Union" Government, individually and collectively, by those persons who voted that same Government into power. Did not all have the chance to read that iniquitous "War Times Election Act"? That act which branded as traitors and enemies all loyal, staunch, Canadian-born women who did not have a son, husband, father or brother to go to the front; the act which made null and void those King-signed contracts with our foreign-born citizens, and did more to cause discontent and

cleavage within our borders than many years of peace and fair-dealing would erase. We pretended horror and scorn when the Kaiser did the same thing, in principle, with the Hague Treaty.

Now, I wonder what but graft, patronage, injustice, etc., could be expected from men who would take office through the instrumentality of such an Act. Are we not getting exactly what could be expected for no honest man would have stood by that Election Act. Such is my opinion! Many say, "Oh, we voted for Conscription!"—but I take exception to that statement and for this reason: Every voter of my knowledge or acquaintance who voted that way first secured his own exemption and the threat was held over the heads of some whom I know that if they voted for Borden they would be exempted, but if not, they would have no chance of being exempted.

That was the price of the ballot. This way of patriotism—these patriots who voted for the other fellow to go—that was the part which made me so ashamed of Canadians. The Union Government is living up to all it ever was worth in my estimation and as long as its real pilot is Sir Clifford Sifton we may look for even more daring exploitation than has yet been accomplished.

It piques me to read the threats and Orders-in-Council directed at the I.W.W.s. It is not because I sympathize with the I.W.W.s but because there is no more rascally class of I.W.W.s than the idle rich who loll in luxury and are protected as patriots. The little pink-and-white dandies who must have a valet to blow their noses for them and another valet to perfume the bath-water and a body-guard of servants to wait their beck and call. A poor I.W.W. can generally attend to his own personal wants at least which proves he is that much more use in the world than the rich one.

Does this not help to prove that Canada is in the hands of just as relentless a master as was Germany? Canada is surely in the control of the monied autocrats and will be just as long as the masses are willing to sweat and work double shift that these autocrats may live in pomp and splendor and occupy the position of law-givers. It is up to the toilers to organize against these conditions and if there must always be two political parties then let those be "Masses versus Classes."

So long as the old style party politics exists the political tricksters will play on the ignorance and prejudice to split the vote of the workers and keep themselves in power. How simple it all looks—"Masses versus Classes." And yet, and yet,—it is the old song,—Grit and Tory to the last ditch, and the masses bear the consequences and refuse to see the cause.

I have read "Deep Furrows" and was disappointed with Jim Weir's attitude toward same, being much pleased with the look myself and felt deep appreciation of those first men who gave and risked so much for the U.G.G. The Hon. Motherwell is still running true to form but I lost confidence in Crerar when he side-stepped the farmers to gratify his own ambitions, and allowed "The Guide" to go over to the Big Interests. Thanking you,

—ALBERTA CUNDAL.

## AN EXPLANATION

Vulcan, Jan. 18th, 1919.

Editor Alberta Non-Partisan—

In reply to Mr. Trego's request for an explanation of the "blunder" I may say the last part of this paragraph is intended to make clear the premises that the U.F.A. must remain independent, and which reads as follows:—

"It is absolutely essential for this institution (the U.F.A.) as champion of the ideals of democracy and co-operation, to remain isolated, unfettered by political strings or business obligations. It is a mistake for it to accept a grant from a strictly party government which in theory it is bound to condemn and it is a hideous blunder for it to accept a gratuity from a stock company (a merger) not operated as a co-operative concern."

The majority of the U.F.A. members will agree that if gifts are accepted from the party in power we are at least under obligations to give that party our friendship and sympathy in their day of trial and tribulation—Election Day. But it is not quite so clear to many of them that if we place ourselves under similar obligation to a business concern they too will look for support on market day.

The farmers of this province own and control a great many stock and co-operative companies. It is the work of the U.F.A. to develop the spirit of co-operation even among these companies. To accept gifts from one or more of these companies is to lay the foundation for patronage and to cause discord where there should be co-operation.

—D. H. GALBRAITH.

## FORGET YOUR DIFFERENCES!

Barons, Jan. 18, 1919.

Mr. Editor:—

I notice that some people are quite peeved at Mr. Weir for his article on "Deep Furrows." As I understand it, "Deep Furrows" is a summary of the progress of the commercial side of the Farmers' Movement, in other words, of the Grain Growers' Grain Co., and the Alberta Farmers' Co-Operative Elevator Co., now the U.G.G.

While this company sprung out of the farmers' organizations, and undoubtedly has done much good, we must remember that it is a private concern, organized on a profit basis the same as any other stock company, and its success or failure is practically of concern to its stockholders only. That it has done its business dealings with the farmers honestly and within the law, is of no special credit to the company or its officers. It is only what is expected and demanded of all concerns by the law. And there is no credit due the U.G.G. because other companies have been accused of law-breaking stunts. If the law has been rigidly enforced, every other public utility concern would per force have been as honest. The only reason that made the U.G.G. necessary, was not the dishonesty of other grain companies, but the non-enforcement of the law. If, on proof of short-weighting, false grading, or refusal to pay the market price for grain, the president and managing directors of the company in question, had been sent to the penitentiary, for say, six months for the first offence, there would never have been a second. They would all, as Glambek says, "be gentlemen after that."

The U.G.G. have made altogether too much capital out of having farmers as a majority stockholders and from doing business in an honest way, as law and justice demands. They should be reminded that from a business standpoint, the

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farmers of Canada are not the U.G.G. and receive none of its profits, which goes to stockholders only. There is no kick coming for this; it would not only be wrong in principle, but impossible in fact to do otherwise, as the company is not, and could not, be organized on a co-operative basis.

But the big stockholders in the company should not fly off the handle even if Jim Weir takes a mild exception to some of the not very modest praise indulged in by the company of its own glory. The U.G.G. has not, and cannot solve the many problems that confront the farmers as producers. All it has done has been to enable the farmers to invest their money at a better profit than what they could get in the banks, or on mortgages. The wealth of this company the same as any other, is taken as profits, and exclusively from farmers. It is probably natural that many stockholders have more regard for their dividends than for the idea of scrapping all business that has, or is compelled by environment to have profits and dividends for aim.

It appears to me that Mr. Weir's idea is that we should have laws that would enable the farmers to retain this profit which now goes to the various middlemen in the public utility business. In that case the U.G.G. would not be necessary, and would, like others, go into liquidation. If this was possible, it would be an immense gain for the farmers as producers, but would of course look like poor business to farmers as receivers of dividends. Some stockholders are probably worried about Mr. Weir's aggressive fight for laws that may bring this about. Hence these fears.

In order to come to a conclusive certainty which of these plans are to the best interest of the farmers, and to fully understand both, we must have the lawmaking in our own hands, then we can decide it among ourselves, and if dividends are more to our liking, we can retain the system and pay some of us dividends; if the other is preferable, we can keep the result of our labor in the pocket where it was, originally placed with much perspiration and considerable grunting. This means political action. We must capture the lawmaking and controlling body, the Government, by united action at the polls. After that we can air our different views at the only place it will be effective, on the legislative floor of the Parliament.

What is the U.F.A. and the U.G.G. too, but a protest against existing conditions? By abolishing these, we may find that our means of protest will become superfluous and will cease to exist, but I hope no one will mourn either the U.F.A. or the U.G.G. after their work is done.

The N.P.L. is the organization for political action, and for the benefit of those that are members of all—the U.F.A., the U.G.G., and the N.P.L., I would like to hint that they are in no danger. The U.F.A. primarily stands for education, the U.G.G. claim to stand for co-operation, and the N.P.L. stands for active realization of both education and co-operation. But remember this—None stand, or should stand, for special privileges for the few at the expense of the many. Any one who has this idea should make a fresh start, or go back and become a heeler for the antiquated old political parties.

Also, any person in public office is open to criticism for his actions, and generally does not resent it, but no one has the right to air his own personal dislike and jealousy of another, in public. If Mr. Weir is wrong in his public utterances, point out his errors and prove them to him, and I am convinced that he will stand corrected.

Let us forget our own puny differences while we fight the beast that has a stranglehold on every man, woman and child, not only in Canada, but in the world.

—JOHN S. LUND.

## ROUSE THE FARMERS TO ACTION!

Carlsland, Alta., Jan. 18th, 1919.  
Editor, ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN:—

I have read with interest Jas. Weir's comment on Wheat Prices, Freight Rates, and Oats, in your last issue. He has dealt with this question in a very convincing manner and it's a topic that vitally concerns all, farmers and consumers as well. John Glambeck has depicted the life of the women on the prairies very ably, and I sincerely hope they follow his advice at the polls on election day.

I am awaiting with interest the outcome of the U.F.A. convention at Edmonton. Let us hope that co-operation in organized political action will be endorsed.

Let us as farmers and wage earners unite in fighting for our just principles. We should be closely allied, for are we not working toward the same goal, namely, a fair recompense for our labor, better economic and social conditions, and a just representation in all things politically.

We must stand together if we are to obtain these things, for divided we will get nowhere. We should all be desirous of bettering the conditions of our fellow-man even though he follows a different occupation from ourselves, for we are all wage-earners and must live from the sweat of our brow.

Therefore let us have co-operation and organization, and more and more of it. You are doing a great work in rousing the farmers to action. Keep at it.

—L. A. PHILLIPS.

## FORT WILLIAM FREIGHT RATES!

Garden Plains, Jan. 23rd, 1919.  
Editor, ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN:—

Three cheers for James Weir! Give us some more, for you know whereof you speak. The C.P.R. has land around here they are asking \$27.00 an acre for, a poor grade of pasture land. Wheat is \$2.24 at Fort William, \$2.00 at Hanna,—that is 24 cents per bushel for taking it to Fort William. A car holds one thousand bushels. At 24 cents, that is \$2.40 per car; a train of thirty cars would be \$7,200 per train. To a man on the fence that looks like—well, something like profiteering.

The farmers should wake up and get the power. Then they, too, could do things!

—J. E. REASOR.

## THE FUTURE IS "OURS"!

Castor, Alta., Jan. 17th, 1919.

Editor, NON-PARTISAN:—

Ever since I signed up as a member of the League I have been getting two papers, but make good use of the extra copy in doing missionary work with my neighbors.

I have often felt like writing you on such subjects as, "Past, Present and Future Economic Conditions," "State-wide Co-Operation," "The Money Question," "The Four Corner-stones of the New Social Structure," etc., etc. However, seeing that other writers are doing so well, they seem to hit the nail upon the head so often, I can reserve myself for such time as there may be a let-up in the energy displayed.

Go to it, boys—you are doing fine. Count on me when action is needed. It's a great work and great times we are living in. The future is "Ours" if we only take it. With fraternal greetings.

—JOHN EGGER.

(NOTE.—We hope to obtain the articles on subjects mentioned from our correspondent to publish in future issues.)

## THE TIME IS RIPE

Travers, Alta., Jan. 14th, 1919.

Editor, NON-PARTISAN:—

I am sending you a subscription for a friend of mine. Your paper is doing excellent work. I read it first thing when I get my mail, for it is the best paper we get. It is on the right road, and I trust all the farmers will see to it that their own men are put into Parliament in the coming election. I believe the time is ripe for it. I will get you more subscribers.

—C. J. TAYLOR.

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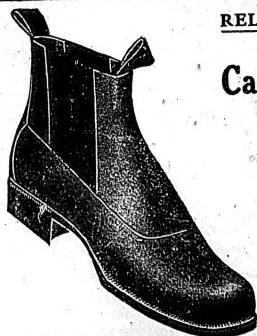
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COMMENCING AT 10 A.M.

Executive Report, New Constitution, Financial Statement and New Plans for Organization will, among other matters, be discussed.

Nomination and Election of Officers will follow.

MRS. McKINNEY, M.L.A., and JAS. WEIR, M.L.A., will be present to give an account of their stewardship.

THE CONVENTION IS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR WIVES, and the members in each community

are urged to get together and send a delegate if unable to attend themselves. Sympathizers with the movement from any district will be heartily welcomed.

Many important recommendations from the Executive will be considered and the future policy of the movement will be determined.

THIS IS YOUR MOVEMENT, and it will go on in the way you direct it. Come and criticize its methods and help to amend where necessary.

It is expected the convention will close the same evening.